

Application No.: 09/765,555

14

Docket No.: 278012001420

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13-31, 36-44, 46-66, 68-85, 88-89, 91-95, 97-100, and 133-138 are currently pending. Claims 17, 23-27, 47, 73, 75, 89, and 138 are cancelled herein. Claims 1, 3, 4, 16, 29, 30, 58, 70, 74, 76-88, 91-95, and 97 are amended herein. Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification, and therefore, it is believed that no new matter is added. The amendments and cancellations are made solely to promote prosecution without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. With respect to all amended and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future applications. Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13-16, 18-22, 28-31, 36-44, 46, 48-66, 68-72, 74, 76-85, 88, 91-95, 97-100, and 133-137 are currently pending. No claim has been allowed.

Examiner Interview Summary

Applicants greatly appreciate Examiner Ibrahim's time and initiative in the Examiner interview of December 12, 2003. The interview is summarized as follows: Examiner Ibrahim called to indicate the allowable subject matter and provide some proposed claim amendments. Examiner Ibrahim faxed the proposed amendments to me, followed by a brief discussion of the proposed amendments. The Examiner suggested that claim 55 be cancelled. However, Applicants pointed out that this claim is fully supported in the specification at, e.g., Example 8. The Examiner agreed to reconsider the inclusion of this claim.

Proposed amendments

The amendments provided herein represent the incorporation of the suggested amendments made by the Examiner with some modifications to insure proper dependency and antecedent basis. Applicants understand that some amendments result in the removal of unnecessary limitations. In view of these amendments and the Examiner interview, Applicants believe the claims are in allowable form. If it is determined that an additional telephone conference

sd-175974

Application No.: 09/765,555

15

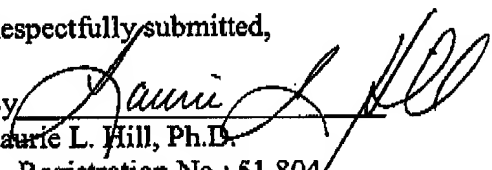
Docket No.: 278012001420

would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 278012001420. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 12, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Laurie L. Hill, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 51,804

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
3811 Valley Centre Drive, Suite 500
San Diego, California 92130
(858) 720-7955

sd-175974